



## **The National Environmental Licensing Authority - ANLA, empowers EPM to continue the development of the works of the Ituango hydroelectric project**

- **On February 19, the Company had presented to the Unified Command Post- PMU- the current status of risks and technical achievements in the recovery of the project**
- **EPM will be able to move forward with works that allow energy dissipation through the turbines and the commissioning of the intermediate discharge tunnel**
- **For EPM the total reduction of risks for downstream populations will be achieved with the entry into operation of the plant**

To contribute to the safety of the communities that live downstream of the future power plant, and taking into account the milestones reached and the activities executed in the last 22 months in the management and reduction of risks, the National Environmental Licensing Authority (ANLA) authorized EPM to continue with the works of the Ituango hydroelectric project, with which the Company will be able to carry out the works that allow to dissipate optimally the energy of the water contained in the reservoir, through the turbines that will be housed in the powerhouse.

The Chief Executive Officer of EPM, Álvaro Guillermo Rendón López, thanked ANLA for attending the EPM request and considering the progress and analysis that the Company presented with its technical team at the National PMU on February 19, where the Company highlighted that having into account the current risk status of the project, it was necessary to continue with the works in the Powerhouse and put into operation the intermediate discharge tunnel as soon as possible.



On that occasion, the EPM team explained that the spillway, in continuous operation since the beginning of last year when the flow of water through the powerhouse was closed, is not built to operate permanently and indefinitely and as any structure should be checked periodically for maintenance.

Mr. Rendón López said that in a letter addressed to ANLA on February 26, EPM explained to the environmental entity that currently only the option of level control of the reservoir is enabled through the spillway, a situation that is emerging as a risk because it makes impossible the verification of the status of the structure of the stilling basin (place where the water that flows down the spillway discharges) and its berms (banks that maintain the watercourse of the spillway).

Although to date there has been no evidence that compromises the system of the spillway, given the uncertainty for the verification of the stilling basin, the collection of information on its status and the timely progress of the interventions that may take place, should be possible.

The ANLA decision is based on the framework established in Resolution 0820 (June 2018) of this entity, a preventive measure that does not involve the suspension of "... activities, works, engineering works and civil works that the company must execute to guarantee the integrity of the project, and prevent and mitigate the risks associated to the contingency presented...", so that the life of the communities downstream of the project can be preserved as a priority.

Last February, after EPM's presentation at the National PMU, the Administrative Department of the System for the Prevention, Attention and Recovery of Disasters of the Government of Antioquia (DAPARD), also issued a communication in which "it considers timely the execution of said works, and in this way mitigate the future effects of the continuous operation of the spillway".



Among the technical achievements of EPM in the project, the following stand out: the completion of the dam and the commissioning of the Ituango road on the crest of this structure, the analysis of the status of the spillway due to its continuous water discharge, the works for the reinforcement of the intermediate discharge tunnel, the pre-plugging works of the right diversion tunnel and the closure of the two gates of the Auxiliary Deviation Gallery, GAD. Likewise, the advances in the recovery of the water pipelines, the caverns of the powerhouse, the transformers and the surge tanks are highlighted, as well as in the filling of the cavity between the conduction tunnels 1 and 2 and in the treatment of the slope known as Romerito, whose works register an 85% progress.

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